

NEWS RELEASE



OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA San Diego, California

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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - October 28, 2005

United States Attorney Carol C. Lam announced the conviction today in United States District Court in San Diego of Omar Abdi Mohamed, on charges arising out of his May 2002 naturalization interview. A federal jury found Mohamed guilty of two counts of making false statements in connection with an immigration application and two counts of making false statements in naturalization proceedings.

According to Assistant United States Attorney John Parmley, who is prosecuting the case, the evidence at trial established that the defendant, a Somali national, lied under oath during his naturalization interview when he failed to inform the immigration officer that he was an employee of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The jury was presented with documents seized from the defendant's home, as well as his bank records, which showed that he was receiving a monthly salary from the Saudi government. Similarly, defendant lied when he falsely informed the immigration officer that he worked for a year and a half at the Taqwa Mosque in San Diego. The jury heard testimony that Mohamed never worked for the mosque. The

jury also learned that the defendant was permitted to enter the United States in 1995 on a special religious worker's visa with the express understanding that he would work at the Taqwa mosque.

The trial took place before United States District Court Judge John A. Houston. The Court set sentencing for December 19, 2005 at 11:00 a.m.

DEFENDANT

Omar Abdi Mohamed

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

Number of Counts: Four

Violations: Title 18, U.S.C. §1546(a) - False Statements in Connection with Immigration Application
Maximum penalty of five years imprisonment and/or a \$250,000 fine.

Title 18, U.S.C. § 1015(a) - False Statements in Matter Relating to Naturalization.
Maximum penalty of five years imprisonment and/or a \$250,000 fine.

AGENCIES

Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security
Federal Bureau of Investigation